

Book Reviews

HISTOLOGICAL STUDIES ON THE LOCALIZATION OF CEREBRAL FUNCTIONS. By ALFRED W. CAMPBELL, M.D., Pathologist to the Asylum Board of the County of Lancaster. University Press, Cambridge.

This is a work that has been urgently needed for a long time. Hammarberg's work on "Idiocy," and isolated monographs here and there have led up to the desire for a work in which one could find the chief histological features of the entire cortex accurately and adequately presented. Dr. Campbell has done this in his quarto of 360 pages. After discussing the methods and material, and general remarks on cell lamination and the arrangement of nerve fibers in the cerebral cortex, he takes up the several areas of the brain substance. In Chapter III. the motor area is studied as to its structure and function. The arrangements of cell and fibers are given and comparisons drawn between the structure of the precentral area of man and ape. Special attention to the giant Betz cells is given as well. Functional studies on the changes in the cortex in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, post-amputative changes and the effects of lesions of this area are given in this chapter as well. The post central area is then taken up in the same exhaustive manner. Histological studies are followed by physiological considerations. Chapters V. and VI. treat of the visuo-sensory and visuo-psychic areas, and the temporal lobes and auditory area. The limbic lobe, the parietal area, the intermediate precentral area, the frontal and prefrontal areas and the island of Reil complete the main body of the work. In an addendum the author presents further histological studies on the localization of cerebral function, dealing particularly with the comparisons of the brain of man and those of the lion, the dog and the pig.

The more one reads the more is the impression deepened that we have here a memorable volume which will serve as a new starting point in all work on the brain, whether one is interested in neurological or psychiatric problems. Campbell has set before himself the task of going over the entire brain cortex, millimeter after millimeter, and here gives us, it might be said, for the first time the complete story of the histology of the human cortex. But he has done more, for in his hands histological investigation, supplemented by embryological and pathological considerations has opened up a well of suggestions concerning cerebral localizations which may well be designated as fundamental. The work deserves the highest praise.

JELLIFFE.

A TEXT BOOK OF PSYCHIATRY FOR PHYSICIANS AND STUDENTS. By LEONARDO BIANCHI, M. D., Professor of Psychiatry and Neuro-pathology in the Royal University of Naples; Minister of Public Instruction in Italy; Medical Director of the Provincial Asylum of Naples. Authorized translation by James H. Macdonald, M.B., Ch.B., Glasgow, Senior Assistant Physician to the Goran District Asylum. William Wood & Co., New York.

This text book, coming from one of the leading psychiatrists of Italy, is of more than passing moment, for the works of Bianchi and Tanzi represent the leading trends in the Italian psychiatry of to-day. The latter is strongly pervaded by the influence of German psychiatry, particularly of the Kraepelin school, while Bianchi represents Bianchi, a strongly individualistic writer and thinker.

The author introduces his work in the conventional manner by summarizing the general facts of cerebral topography and minute anatomy,

which is a scholarly and interesting presentation. The main principles of mental evolution from the physiological point of view are there considered, special attention being given to the function of language.

In part II. the author discusses the psychological principles which will serve as the framework of his symptomatology. The *Psycho-pathology of Perception, of Attention, of Memory, of Ideation, of the Emotions and Sentiments, of the Will and Consciousness*, are the chapter headings in this part of the work. Here the method of the author is made manifest. He takes up in an easy manner the general psychological scheme and elaborates it by copious references to contemporaneous literature. This is done, however, in an interesting, though in a very disjointed, manner, yet the main facts of recent psychological research are admirably presented. Illusions are defined by Bianchi as disorders of perception by which the subject reproduces, in the object present, features that do not correspond to the reality, but which are reawakened by an altered associated mechanism and by an anomalous tension of certain nervous apparatus. Such a representation necessitates the action of an objective stimulus. Hallucinations are subjective perceptions according to our author, and are closely related to illusions, if indeed they may not be the same thing. These phenomena are elaborately and minutely illustrated by clinical examples and by a wealth of suggestive material.

Attention, Bianchi regards as a psychic fact, interposed between perception and the reaction which it tends to provoke. It is therefore one of the higher reflex processes, such as conscious and voluntary movements, and their inhibition. This chapter is a very fascinating one, and the following one on memory is no less so. In the chapter on Ideation the phenomena of delirium are taken up. Delirium is a qualitative disturbance of ideation. The formative process of thought is altered by extraneous associative relations between preformed images, drawn sometimes from the unconscious, or between already acquired ideas and the newcomers, thus giving rise to a conclusion which does not correspond to reality. The product of this abnormal process goes under the name of delirium. Bianchi's attitude toward deliria is unusual. He says that the "deliria" are always preformed mental products that have been eliminated from consciousness at an early date; and he further speaks of the consciousness offering less resistance to the invading power of these products. His illustrations are striking, but the suggestion is too diagrammatic. According to the nature of the content he distinguishes deliria of grandeur, of depression, of metamorphosis, of negation, of persecution, and of religion.

The chapter on the Emotions contains an excellent discussion of the James-Lange theory, as well as much literature, old and new, and ranging over an extensive field. It is surprising to an American reviewer to find an author who has made so much use of the work of American psychologists. In fact, no worker of any significance is neglected, notwithstanding the variations in speech.

The will is defined as "nothing more than the conscious resolution of the motor tendencies of the intellectual-emotional synthesis," and we may figure it to ourselves as the conscious motor potential tending to discharge itself through circuits of various orders, **from the lowest, which must resemble the inferior and instinctive reflexes, to the highest, which are represented in the actions of the heroes of humanity.** That man is a reflex animal even in his most complex intellectual acts is therefore the attitude of our author.

The author has a repugnance to classifications of the psychopathies. "Almost useless, incomplete and not vital" are his terms. He gets along without one, therefore, but presents a series of groups. In the first group he puts all those psychopathies developing on an evolutionary psychocerebral defect; a second group consists of all the mental affectations of

infective, autotoxic and toxic origin, developing in individuals regularly evolved, and a third group includes all the affections with an organic substratum, localized or diffuse, in the central organ of mind.

In his first group he arranges phrenasthenia, paraphrenias, congenital moral insanity, epilepsy, hysteria, developmental paranoia, fixed ideas, developmental neurasthenia and the sexual psychopathies. In the second group are arranged: Mania, lypemania, exalted-depressive insanity, circular and periodic insanity, sensory insanity, mental confusion, acute paranoia, late paranoia, neurasthenic insanity, choreic insanity, luetic insanity, acute delirium, and the drug and infectious insanities. His third group contains: Paralytic dementia, luetic dementia, senile dementia, post hemiplegic dementia, aphasic dementia, traumatic dementia, and dementia arising from tumors, scleroses, plaques and other organic diseases of the brain.

It is very evident that the ideas of prognosis so valuable in Kraepelin's schemes are not taken into account by Bianchi, and furthermore it is difficult to understand his attitude when he says that the secondary dementias are always identical, whatever the clinical form from which the particular symptoms are derived. If there is any large fact of psychiatry that has been brought forth by the work of Kraepelin it is that the secondary dementia group is far from being homogeneous, and as long as they were so considered little hope was offered in the unravelling of the process that led to the dementia.

The descriptive portion is admirable, particularly so from the standpoint of comparative psychiatry, although it is to be regretted that much of the newer German symptomatology is conspicuous by its absence. As a whole the work is one that in its present form should be read by psychiatrists, who cannot help but profit in so doing.

JELLIFFE.

News and Notes

At a recent meeting of the New York Psychiatric Society the following memorial notice of the death of Dr. Alexander E. Macdonald was presented by Drs. Charles F. MacDonald and William Mabon, a committee appointed for the purpose, was unanimously adopted and ordered to be spread upon the minutes of the society and a copy of the same to be sent to the family of the deceased:

Alexander E. Macdonald, L.L.B., M.D., a member of the New York Psychiatric Society, died Dec. 10, 1906.

For thirty-five years Dr. Macdonald had been intimately associated with the insane. He commenced the study of medicine at Toronto University and graduated M. D., Medical Department, New York University, 1870; L.L.B., Law School, New York University, 1881. Lecturer upon Medical Jurisprudence in 1874; subsequently, Professor of Medical Jurisprudence, Professor of Psychological Medicine and Medical Jurisprudence, and was Emeritus Professor at the time of his death. House Physician Hospital for Epileptics and Paralytics, Blackwell's Island, 1870; chief of staff, Charity and Allied Hospitals, Blackwell's Island, 1871. Resident physician, New York City Asylum for the Insane, Ward's Island, 1874. Medical superintendent of the same from 1874 to 1904, the title of the asylum having been changed in the meantime to Manhattan State Hospital, East, Ward's Island.

In 1901 he established the tent treatment of the tuberculous insane, removing them from all communication with any unaffected patients. The